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Council of Defense Speakers

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State Council of Defense
(Pa.)
Manual of Information for
Council of Defense Speakers

MANUAL

OF

INFORMATION

FOR COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

SPEAKERS

Issued by

The State Council of Defense

Of Pennsylvania

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The State Council of Defense was established by proclamation of Governor Arthur H. James on April 17, 1941. Authority for the Council and for the 500 County and Local Councils of Defense now functioning under its supervision was provided by an Act of Legislature passed unanimously by both Houses of the General Assembly during March, 1941.

Members of the State Council of Defense are:

Governor Arthur H. James
Chairman
William S. Livengood, Jr.
Secretary, Internal Affairs
Robert M. Vail
Adjutant General
Samuel S. Lewis
Lieutenant Governor
G. Harold Wagner
State Treasurer

F. Clair Ross
Auditor General
Charles H. Ealy
President Pro Tem, Senate
Elmer J. Kilroy
Speaker of the House
Mrs. William J. Clothier
Webster Newton Jones
Leo A. Achterman

A. C. Marts
Executive Director

R. V. Wall
Director of Publicity

A. Boyd Hamilton
Secretary

Mrs. Jean D. Doverspike
Director of Speakers Bureau

INTRODUCTION

This Manual has been prepared to serve as a brief summary of activities of the Councils of Defense in Pennsylvania so that speakers will have a clear idea of the plans and progress and also of the topics that are currently being stressed.

Dr. A. C. Marts, Executive Director of the State Council of Defense, has outlined six separate activities that promise to be of leading importance during the closing months of 1941. "These are not the only activities undertaken or to be undertaken," Dr. Marts explains, "but they will serve to acquaint speakers with the more important phases of our program."

The six branches of activity are explained under separate headings on the following pages.

Harrisburg, Pa.
September, 1941

I. ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE AMERICAN UNITY--

The State Council of Defense on August 27, 1941, sent a communication to County and Local Councils of Defense throughout Pennsylvania asking them to appoint Citizens Committees for American Unity.

An accompanying letter from the Executive Director explained the need for these committees as follows:

> "Confusion, uncertainty, conflicting opinions and selfish interest are making our great republic weak instead of strong at a time of great peril.
>
> "One of the most important jobs our Councils of Defense in Pennsylvania have before us this fall is the endeavor to create a clearer understanding of our duty to make America strong enough to meet the dangers that lie ahead of us.
>
> "We cannot become strong in production and in defense until we first become strong in mind and purpose."

The name for the American Unity committees was suggested by the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense, which desires to make Pennsylvania a model for other states in the field of morale and unity building.

The State Council of Defense, responding fully to this desire, has changed the name of its state-wide "Advisory Committee on Civil Liberties" to the "Citizens Committee for American Unity" in order to conform with the terminology suggested by Washington.

The personnel of this state-wide committee is being selected by the State Council of Defense, while the membership of the local committees is being named by the Local Councils of Defense.

The basic purpose of the American Unity committees is to act as strategy committees to watch any local situation damaging to morale, and to see that it is tackled by the best and most capable people in that area before the difficulty becomes serious or widespread.

It was suggested that the Unity committees appoint a few subcommittees such as the following:

1. A sub-committee to work on the problem of Morale in connection with the parents of draftees. In most instances, persons dissatisfied with a decision of the local draft board can be satisfied if they receive a friendly visit on the part of some fellow citizens who have a sympathetic discussion with them of the problem. This sub-committee should work closely with the local draft board;

2. A sub-committee on rallies and demonstrations of Unity on such occasions as Labor Day, Armistice Day, Fourth of July, Consitution Day, etc.;

3. A sub-committee to serve as a local Speakers Bureau to provide speakers to the various organizations throughout the community who wish to have a defense program presented.

Other sub-committees may be deemed advisable in certain communities.

Many communities already have staged impressive demonstrations to promote national unity. The Lancaster County Council of Defense, which has been in existence more than a year, sponsored an impressive Democracy Days program last spring, and periodically holds Citizenship Days to instruct new citizens just coming of age. Chester, Pottsville, Muncy, Towanda and Berwick recently staged national defense parades, and many other municipalities have held demonstrations in connection with the Draft Registration and the Aluminum Campaign.

In Philadelphia, the program of the Citizens Committee for American Unity has been underway since early August. The chairman and vice-chairman, appointed by the city's Council of Defense, are Phillip Staples and John B. Kelly respectively.

Aside from parades and speeches, however, the committees on American Unity should take steps to combat "whispering campaigns," both innocent and inspired.

One of the things most damaging to national unity and morale during this time of emergency is the insidious street-corner or lunch table remarks complaining about "this or that" in our national policy.

The people who criticize our elected leaders and rant about everything being "all wrong" can do untold damage, and the problem of combatting their under-mining effect is difficult to handle.

Responsible citizens should be reminded that it is their patriotic duty to discourage loose and confusing talk. It should be drilled into every one not to give credence to word-of-mouth bickering that is totally lacking in authenticity.

One of the best ways to take the sting out of such talk is to keep well informed yourself and to urge others to do likewise. Beyond that, everyone should be reminded that this is a time of national emergency and that loyalty to our country can only be upheld through loyalty to our leaders and to our national policy.

A special bulletin giving an eye-witness account of the terrible chaos and complete collapse in France has been sent to the Local Councils of Defense. The dissention, confusion, and outright treachery that contributed to Hitler's victory over France is vividly told.

The whole program for American Unity is given high meaning by the recent warning of Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson that Army morale is much less important than civilian fighting spirit.

"We will begin to develop a national morale," he said, "when we begin to appreciate the fact that our national existence is menaced and that we must pay a stiff price in money and comfort, if in nothing else, to assure its safety.

"Once we have established national civilian morale, the problem of soldier morale will have cared for itself."

II. AIR RAID WARNINGS--

Governor James has appointed Ralph E. Flinn, Pittsburgh businessman, as Chief Air Raid Warden of the State Council of Defense to supervise the job of organizing Air Raid Alarm Centers in the state.

His preliminary task is to contact designated towns and cities, for the most part county-seats, to arrange through the Councils of Defense and county officials for local action in setting up headquarters to receive air raid warnings from the Army Air Force. These headquarters are then responsible for spreading the alarm to the surrounding areas.

The Army, through an entirely separate setup known as the Enemy Aircraft Spotting System, is arranging to maintain during periods of special danger a 24-hour lookout for enemy planes from 1200 outdoor observation posts scattered all through Pennsylvania and other hundreds of posts in adjoining states. These outdoor posts will be manned by volunteers, recruited by the American Legion, who have been specially trained for their important jobs of spotting and reporting enemy planes.

The reports from outdoor posts will be phoned to one of three or four so-called filter centers in the State. These centers, staffed by women volunteers, are now set up at Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Scranton, and later a center will be established at Pittsburgh. The filter centers will plot the position and strength of attacking planes and flash the word to Mitchell Field, Long Island, the headquarters of the Army's First Interceptor Command.

All of the Spotting System is under Army supervision. After the Interceptor Command gets the reports from filter centers and from other sources on and near the Eastern Coast, it does two things--

1. It dispatches fighter planes to drive off the attacking force.

2. It flashes the word to Air Raid Alarm Centers to "get ready" for an air raid.

As soon as the word is flashed to an Alarm Center, the job of warning hospitals, policemen, firemen, factories, utilities, and civilians throughout the surrounding area is strictly a civilian job, in charge of the Councils of Defense.

And this offers one of the ways in which the people of Pennsylvania can help to protect their own lives and homes--by serving as volunteers in some phase of the air raid precautions program. A chief air raid warden and numerous deputy wardens will be appointed for each Alarm Center.

Warnings will come to the Alarm Centers through an ingenious alarm box that is controlled at Mitchell Field. A yellow light flashing on the alarm box gives the first warning, a blue light the second warning, a red light designates an immediate attack, and a white light gives the "all clear."

A system of signals by telephone hookups, radio and siren will be worked out by each Alarm Center as its means of warning the institutions, civil services, and civilians in surrounding towns.

Public cooperation will be vitally necessary for the success of the air raid warning system. Full-scale try-outs of the entire system are to be held periodically, with Army bombers filling the role of "attacking" planes.

Air Raid Alarm Centers are being set up first in the 37 eastern counties of Pennsylvania, after which the system will be extended to the western part of the state.

Following are the Alarm Centers designated by the Army for eastern Pennsylvania:

Philadelphia	Towanda	Williamsport
Chester	Wellsboro	Lock Haven
West Chester	Harrisburg	Bellefonte
Norristown	Lancaster	Clearfield
Doylestown	Lebanon	Altoona
Allentown	York	Huntingdon

Easton	Reading	Lewistown
Scranton	Pottsville	Bedford
Wilkes-Barre	Mauch Chunk	Chambersburg
Honesdale	Hazleton	Carlisle
Stroudsburg	Bloomsburg	Gettysburg
Montrose	Sunbury	

III. TRAINING FOR CIVILIAN PROTECTION--

Mr. T. Semmes Walmsley, Deputy U. S. Director of Civilian Defense under Mayor LaGuardia, conferred with the State Council of Defense staff at Harrisburg recently, and one of the things he emphasized was that "there will be a civilian defense job soon for every American who wishes to serve."

Patriotic citizens already are being asked in many cities of the state to volunteer for civilian defense work, and the importance of getting wide public response to these appeals cannot be over-emphasized. Volunteers are asked to list their experience and preference for various tasks, and will later be assigned to one of the branches of service.

An idea of what these civilian defense services will be, and the training required, is contained in a pamphlet issued by the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense. This pamphlet deals with "Civilian Protection" and will be followed by other pamphlets dealing with each phase of the program.

The State Council of Defense is cooperating in every way in passing on to the Local Councils of Defense in Pennsylvania the program suggested by the Washington headquarters.

An outline of some of the air raid preparations suggested in the "Civilian Protection" pamphlet follows:

Warning Signals--The War Department has approved the use of sirens or air horns for a general air-raid warning.

Percussion sounds such as bells or rapidly struck triangles will indicate the presence of gas.

Blackout--One of the most important of the measures coming under civilian defense is the restriction of lighting. It is suggested that preliminary plans be made at this time for possible screening or extinguishing of lighting in the event of an emergency.

Fire Defense--The most practical plan is the establishment of at least three auxiliary fire stations around each existing engine company. An officer or first-grade firemen may be placed in charge of each auxiliary station and enrolled volunteers assigned on the platoon system. Fighting incendiary bombs as they fall is a duty in which all able-bodied citizens must be trained. After training and demonstrations, the most alert citizens should be selected as fire watchers.

Air Raid Wardens--To a great extent, the Air Raid Warden is the embodiment of the civilian defense program to the average citizen. He is not a policeman and does not enjoy police powers, but he works under the police organization and with its help. An Air Raid Warden's Post should be organized to cover each 500 people in a city. Under emergency conditions one person must be constantly on duty. Therefore, the appointment of one Air Raid Warden and three Assistant Wardens for each Post is recommended.

Medical Services--A separate memorandum is being prepared giving detailed suggestions as to the establishment of first-aid posts, casualty clearing stations, first-aid parties, auxiliary courses, augmenting of hospital staffs and ambulance service, and other activities involved in the care and treatment of civilian casualties. Many of these tasks will be carried on cooperatively with Red Cross Chapters.

Shelter Construction--British experience has indicated a trend toward individual rather than group shelters. In view of the large costs and engineering tasks involved, initial planning should be concerned only with the protection of public buildings, arrangements for downtown emergency shelters, reinforcement of powerhouse construction, protection of telephone exchanges, and similar tasks.

Civilian Enrollment--All volunteers will be required to take active training and will be subject to discipline as duly enrolled personnel in the civilian defense organization. It is desirable that leadership be developed so that, in emergency, qualified persons will assume responsibility.

IV. EDUCATIONAL--

Educational facilities constitute one of the fields of authority vested in the State Council of Defense, since the maintenance of our educational resources is even more important in a period of emergency than in normal times.

To get a clear picture of the supply of skilled labor available for Pennsylvania's fast-expanding defense factories, and the means of training additional workers, the State Council of Defense asked Dr. C. C. Williams, president of Lehigh University, to survey the known facts and prepare a report.

Principal findings of this report, which was completed late in the summer, were that:

A. There is a general surplus of construction workers in the state but a shortage of production workers for defense industries.

B. The skilled labor supply is more adequate in outlying sections than in the cities, where the bulk of the defense work is being done.

Among the steps suggested by President Williams to

increase the supply of skilled workers were:

1. Lowering of employment qualifications in regard to age, citizenship, color, race, and union status. (The State Council of Defense recently recommended to Pennsylvania employers that they show no discrimination against any color, race, or creed in their hiring of workers).

2. Far-reaching vocational and trades education. The report praised the program already underway in this field.

3. A continuous system of labor surveys with weekly or monthly reports.

4. Adoption of special contracting procedures to make use of "partly employed" skilled labor found in the maintenance shops of coal mines, silk mills, garages, and other industries.

5. Special re-training of unemployed men in the anthracite region, both to increase the defense labor supply and to help solve "a serious economic and sociologic problem" which exists there.

The Williams report is being studied by the State Council of Defense advisory committee on education with a view to making practical use of the findings. The Committee is headed by Dr. Francis B. Haas, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

V. GENERAL WELFARE SERVICES--

Protection of consumer interests during the emergency period is being undertaken on a very active scale by the consumer committees of Local Councils of Defense.

The U. S. Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply has collaborated with the State Council of Defense

in the preparation of a special bulletin outlining ways in which the local consumer committees can inform the public on proper nutrition and buying and can oppose unfair price advances.

As in the case of civilian morale, the federal agencies have asked Pennsylvania to take the lead in consumer activities so that the results here can be passed on to other states. A Pennsylvania delegation headed by Mrs. William J. Clothier, woman member of the State Council of Defense, recently conferred with OPACS officials in Washington relative to this program.

Consumer information centers, classes led by dietitians, local market news broadcasts, and cooperation in projects for canning surplus fruits and vegetables are among the activities suggested for the local consumer committees.

Other undertakings in this general field include Homes Registration Offices and Fair Rent Committees, both of which are being set up by Local Councils of Defense where the need exists. The homes registration offices are performing an important service in helping to find living quarters for incoming defense workers.

VI. CONSERVATION OF MATERIAL RESOURCES--

The recent Aluminum Collection Campaign and the later appeal for Gasoline Conservation probably are the forerunners of other public programs of this type. It is highly important to obtain public cooperation in such appeals not only to bolster the supply of raw materials for our defense production but also to bring home to every citizen his individual responsibility to aid in the national defense program.

The pinch of national defense demands will be felt more and more by the consuming public. Every American must put the nation's needs above his own temporary inconvenience.

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